



BERGEN COUNTY

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CARES ACT FUNDS (CDBG-CV)

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, was signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020, to respond to the growing effects of this historic public health crisis. The CARES Act made available \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. Of this amount, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) immediately allocated \$2 billion based on the fiscal year 2020 CDBG formula. The remaining \$3 billion will be allocated based on needs using best available data. Given the immediate needs faced by our communities, HUD has announced the first allocation of funds for the County of Bergen is \$5,562,321.

The CARES Act adds additional flexibility for both the CDBG-CV grant and, in some cases, for the annual FY2020 CDBG grants in these unprecedented times. The public comment period is reduced to not less than 5 days, grantees may use virtual conferencing for public hearings when necessary for public health reasons, the public services cap is suspended during the emergency, and States and local governments may reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response regardless of the date.

In addition, the CARES Act authorizes the Secretary of HUD to grant waivers and alternative requirements of statutes and regulations. The Secretary administered in connection with the use of CDBG-CV funds, fiscal year 2019 and 2020 CDBG funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment).

The County of Bergen proposes to amend its FY2019 CDBG One Year Action Plan to make use of its allocation of CDBG funds pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Consistent with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Memorandum (Memo) dated April 9, 2020.

CDBG-CV funds will support a variety of activities to prevent, prepare and respond to coronavirus including but not limited to:

- Public facilities and Improvement projects that directly contribute to addressing COVID-19 related issues,
- Public Services – particularly those directed to, but not limited to, senior services, food provision, emergency assistance and domestic violence services and
- Other eligible activities that directly prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus.

